RCA 88,482

<u>**Listing of Claims:**</u>

Claim 1. (currently amended) In a video decoder system, a method for forming a program guide allowing a User to select a function, comprising the steps of:

a) receiving program guide information for display from at least one source, said

program guide information including User selectable menu icons <u>representing at least one</u>

<u>external device;</u>

b) generating program map information in said decoder for associating a User selectable

menu icon with access data enabling initiation of communication between said decoder and said

external device in response to selection of said menu icon presented in said program guide

information for display;

c) retrieving access data from memory, said access data enabling initiation of

communication between said decoder and a device external to said video decoder in response to

User selection of said displayed program guide menu option; and

d) formatting said program guide for display.

Claim 2. (original) A method according to claim 1, including the step of:

generating program map information for associating

different displayed User selectable menu icons with different communication links.

Claim 3. (original)A method according to claim 1, including the step of:

generating said program map information to further associate said User selectable menu

icon with said access data and a data identifier for acquiring data from said external device.

Claim 4. (original)A method according to claim 1, including the step of:

generating program map information for associating a displayed User selectable menu icon with both request access data 5 and response access data for bi-directional communication.

Claim 5. (original)A method according to claim 4, wherein

said request access data includes one of a) a telephone/fax number, b) an Internet identifier or address code and c) conditional 10 access data; and

said response access data includes at least one of a) a data identifier, b) a channel number, and c) a transponder number.

Claim 6. (original)A method according to claim 4, including the step of:

generating program map information for associating different displayed User selectable menu icons with different address representative codes corresponding to the addresses of information sources.

Claim 7. (original)A method according to claim 1, including the step of

generating program map information for associating different displayed User selectable menu icons with different address representative codes corresponding to the addresses of at least two sources selected from: a) a storage source; b) a satellite broadcast source; c) a terrestrial broadcast source; d) a cable broadcast source; e) a computer source; f) a radio transmission source and g) a source accessed via telephone lines.

Claim 8. (original)A method according to claim 1, including the step of:

generating program map information for associating different displayed User selectable menu icons with different conditional access information for determining access to programs based upon User entitlement.

Claim 9. (original)A method according to claim 1, including the step of:

generating program map information for associating different displayed User selectable menu icons with different physical communication network parameters.

Claim 10. (original)A method according to claim 1, including the step of:

deriving said access data from said received program 15 guide information.

Claim 11. (original)A method according to claim 1, including the step of:

generating program map information for associating different displayed User selectable menu icons with different address representative codes corresponding to the addresses of information sources provided to said decoder by a User.

Claim 12. (original)A method according to claim 11, wherein

said address representative codes include at least one of a) telephone/fax number representative information, and b) Internet address representative information.

Claim 13. (original) In avideo decoder system, a method for forming a program guide allowing a User to select a function, comprising the steps of:

a) receiving program guide information from at least one source:

b) generating a menu icon for display in a displayed program guide, said menu icon permitting a User to initiate communication between said video decoder and a device external to said video decoder;

c) generating program map information in said decoder for associating said menu icon with access data enabling establishment of bi-directional communication between said decoder and said external device in response to selection of said menu icon presented in said program guide information for display;

d) incorporating program guide information and said menu icon in a program guide; and

e) formatting said program guide for display.

Claim 14. (original) A method according to claim 13, including the step of: deriving said access data from said program guide information.

Claim 15. (original) A method according to claim 13, including the step of: generating program map information for associating different displayed User selectable menu icons with different communication links.

generating said program map information to further associate said menu icon with said access data and a data identifier for acquiring data from said external device.

Claim 16. (original) A method according to claim 15, including the step of:

associating different access data with corresponding different communication links.

Claim 17. (original) A method according to claim 13, including the step of:

generating program map information for associating said menu icon with both request access data and response access data.

Claim 18. (original) A method according to claim 17, wherein

said request access data includes one of a) a telephone/fax number, b) an Internet identifier or address code and c) conditional access data; and

said response access data includes at least one of a) a data identifier, b) a channel number, and c) a transponder number.

Claim 19. (original) A method according to claim 17, including the step of: generating program map information for associating different displayed User selectable menu icons with different address representative codes corresponding to the addresses of information sources.

Claim 20. (original) A method according to claim 13, including the step of:

generating program map information for associating different displayed User selectable menu

icons with different address representative codes corresponding to the addresses of at least two

sources selected from: a) a storage source; b) a satellite broadcast source; c) a terrestrial

broadcast source; d) a cable broadcast source; e) a computer source; f) a radio transmission

source and g) a source accessed via telephone lines.

Claim 21. (original) A method according to claim 13, including the step of:

generating program map information for associating different displayed User selectable

menu icons with different conditional access information for determining access to programs

based upon User entitlement.

Claim 22. (original) A method according to claim 13, including the step of:

generating program map information for associating different displayed User selectable

menu icons with different physical communication network parameters .

Claim 23. (original) A method according to claim 13, including the step of:

generating program map information for associating different displayed User selectable

menu icons with different address representative codes corresponding to the addresses of

information sources provided to said decoder by a User.

Claim 24. (original) A method according to claim 23, wherein said address representative codes include at least one of a) telephone/fax number representative information, and b) Internet address representative information.

Claim 25. (original) A method according to claim 13, including the step of:

generating program map information for associating different packet identifiers (PIDs) with program guide information from different sources.

Claim 26. (original) In a video decoder system, a method for forming a program guide allowing a User to select a function, comprising the steps of:

a) receiving program guide information from at least one source;

b) generating a menu icon for display in a displayed program guide, said menu icon permitting a User to initiate communication between said video decoder and a device external to said video decoder;

c) generating program map information associating said menu icon with a communication protocol and both request access data and response access data enabling establishment of communication between said decoder and said external device in response to selection of said menu icon presented in said program guide information for display;

d) incorporating program guide information and s ai d menu icon in a program guide; and

e) formatting said program guide for display.